

STATEMENT
BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA SERZH SARGSYAN
AT THE 21ST CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK
CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Paris, November 30, 2015

Distinguished Mr. President,
Honorable Heads of Delegations,
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to thank President Hollande of France for the excellent organization of the Climate Change Summit and hospitality extended to us in spite of the terrorist acts that some days ago shocked France and the whole civilized humankind.

Climate change is a global challenge, which equally threatens all states and nations, regardless of their size and level of development. In Armenia, which is a land-locked country characterized by its fragile mountainous ecosystem, the temperature increase has already been above one degree Celsius. Armenia's share in emissions on global scale is insignificant: it is less than two hundredth of a per cent. We, nevertheless, attach great importance to the need of combining efforts of all countries to address this issue. As a developing nation we have committed ourselves to contribute to this global endeavor.

The Armenian national position was reflected in the "Plan of Actions defined at the National Level" adopted by our Government. It is built upon the following principles:

First, global emissions of the greenhouse gases shall be limited at the threshold, which would keep the temperature increase below the two degrees Celsius.

Second, we shall adopt an approach that is "general but differentiated," and take into account the varying degree of the current and historical responsibility of the numerous countries.

Third, the responsibility and burden-sharing for limiting the emissions of greenhouse gases shall be distributed by taking into account the rights of the contemporary and future generations to utilize the climate resources.

And, finally, four, not to do anything that would make the developing countries to slide back.

Armenia stands ready to undertake a commitment of a quantitative limitation to the increase of the emissions of greenhouse gases in the instance it is provided with appropriate international financial, technological and technical assistance.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In conclusion, I would like to underline that the challenge of climate change, as well as other contemporary global threats that are of concern to us, recognize neither national borders, nor international law, nor any civilizational norms. A challenge that a country may face in the modern interdependent and globalizing world is, in a collective sense, a challenge to all of us. Therefore, the solutions shall be comprehensive, agreed upon and coordinated. We need to evaluate anew foundations of the global cohabitation, and refine the toolbox at our disposal. And our joint response to the challenges of climate change, should it be successful, may become a precedent for a new kind of endeavor.

I thank you for your attention.